



Vital News

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September 2009 Front: Chris Mays,

Electronic Registration

The Bureau of Vital Statistics is excited about our progress with the implementation of the electronic birth registration system (EBRS). Quality assurance field representatives are on the road almost full time, training new hospitals. By the end of September, 57 hospitals will be online with the new system, with at least 16 more to be added by the end of the year. Full implementation is expected by June 2010. A web based EBRS tutorial is being developed for hospital birth registrars' use for both new hires and for a refresher on procedures for existing staff. The tutorial should be available by the first of the year.

As EBRS progresses, so does the electronic death registration system (EDRS). Testing continues on the system, equipment is being shipped and installed, training materials are being developed, and a rollout plan is being refined. As noted in several issues of this publication, our plan is to pilot in Medical Examiner District 4 (Duval, Clay, Nassau, Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, and Suwannee counties) with a handful of funeral homes. When we complete the pilot, EDRS will be implemented throughout the rest of ME district 4. A "remote" pilot is being planned, should it be necessary, most likely in ME District 11 (Miami-Dade County).



'Tis the Season!!!!

MEET 'N GREET

The role of the Quality Assurance Unit has changed dramatically in the last few years. No more do we have a state divided into geographical areas with QA field representatives assigned to those areas and making regular field visits to county health departments. Back then we had three staff members to cover the entire state and we became quite familiar with "our folks" in the counties.

Well, along came technology and WHAM; QA's role shifted! E-Vitals and electronic registration of vital records has required QA staff to become familiar with not just the program side of things, but also some of the technical issues that accompany electronic registration. Checking areas of hospitals for wireless signals, installing Citrix software and electronic signature pads on hospital computers, troubleshooting and handling helpdesk tickets, instructing users on how to navigate using a laptop, working with the Birth Registration Support Team; these are just a few of the new tasks encountered on a daily basis.

There are now eight people on the QA team, led by Sharon Dover, QA Manager. Mike Grant deals with the more traditional field rep issues coming from counties, funeral directors, and hospitals. Jana Duffy is the Project Lead for the Electronic Birth Registration System (EBRS); with Chris Mays, Cindy Russ, Ana Goold, Mike Edwards, and Michele Watterson as field reps devoted to EBRS rollout. The team is also gearing up for piloting the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) that should come after the first of the year.

Yes, these are some busy people and we appreciate their time and dedication. We've said it before, but their theme song should be, "On the Road Again"!!



Front: Cindy Russ, Jana Duffy, Ana Goold.
Back: Mike Grant, Mike Edwards,
Sharon Dover, Michele Watterson

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NOTE: This article concludes the Meet 'N Greet series of the various units within the state office. We will be surprising you with a new series beginning with the December issue, so stay tuned!!

Revision, Chapter 64V-1, Florida Administrative Code

The 2009-2010 legislative session resulted in a change to the vitals section of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), s. 64V-1, F.A.C. This change was made to allow for the electronic registration of Florida deaths and fetal deaths, paragraphs (1) and (2) as shown below.

An addition, paragraph (3), was also made to this section that we hope will make it a bit easier to get the attending physician to certify cause of death. This addition outlines how the death record and what information on the record can be used in a court of law as prima facie evidence (sufficient to prove the fact).

64V-1.0061 Death and Fetal Death Registration

(1) All deaths except for fetal deaths filed pursuant to Section 382.008, F.S., shall be registered electronically on the department's electronic death registration system or by means specified by



the state registrar. A Florida Certificate of Death, DH Form 512, July 04, hereby incorporated by reference and available from the Florida Department of Health, State Office of Vital Statistics, P. O. Box 210, Jacksonville, Florida 32231-0042 shall be used until an electronic death registration system is implemented.

(2) All fetal deaths occurring in this state shall be filed on a Florida Certificate of Fetal Death, DH Form 428, Jan. 06, hereby incorporated by reference and available from the Florida Department of Health, State Office of Vital Statistics, P. O. Box 210, Jacksonville, Florida 32231-0042.

(3) A death certificate is prima facie proof of the fact, place, date, and time of death and identity of the decedent. A physician's signature and statement as to the cause of death does not constitute prima facie proof of the cause of death.

Florida Health Notes, 1908

From the 1890's to well into the 1960's, The Florida State Board of Health published a monthly magazine called, *Florida Health Notes*. This publication was intended for individuals and institutions with an interest in the state's health programs. The current Bureau of Vitals Statistics, the same entity, just with a different name, has custody of some of the old issues, as well as some taken from Internet archives. There are some fascinating articles found in these old publications. The following is an article taken from the *Florida Health Notes*, Vol. III, May 1908. At that time, Joseph Y. Porter, M.D. was the State Health Officer. At the time the article appeared it was taken from the *Bulletin New York Department of Health*, Citation *New Hampshire Sanitary Bulletin*, *State Board of Health*.

THE PURPOSE OF VITAL STATISTICS

These records are of value in two ways, to the sanitation working for the prevention of disease and the prolongation of life, and to the individual. Large sums of money are being expended annually in properly disposing of sewage, in filtering and protecting public water supplies, in disinfection, in carrying out anti-tuberculosis by sanatoria, dispensaries, educational measures, etc. How can we determine if this money is being spent to the best advantage unless we can see their effect upon the death rate? How can we really judge the health conditions, the sanitary aspects of a community unless we have an accurate birth rate to compare with the death rate?

To the individual directly, too, registration of births and deaths is important. There is hardly a relation in life in which such a record may not be evidence of the greatest value. In the matter of inheriting property; in the administration of estates; as an insurance proof to establish the exact age of the insured; in determining whether individuals are of legal marriageable age; in voting; in jury and military service; in many avenues of professional and official life; in carrying out the provisions of laws relating to education, and child labor, and in numerous other ways records of this character are often of the highest importance. It would seem that there are but few people whose birth, marriage, or death does not at some time become a matter of official or legal cognizance

Welcome Aboard



The following appointments have been made to the position of registrar in the county health department:

Local Registrar

Tori Wiggins..... Jackson
Pam Blackmon . Lafayette & Suwannee
Jennifer Bencie, M.D. Manatee
Alina M. Alonso, M.D. Palm Beach
Bonnie Sorensen, M.D. Volusia

The Vital Records Registration Handbook 2008 Revision & the Birth & Death editions of the handbook can be downloaded from the website: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.html

Non-Contagious Disease Letter

There are times when a funeral director shipping a body out of the U.S. will ask for a letter or statement indicating the death was from a non-contagious disease or condition that is not a threat to public health. There is no mandated format for the letter.

In most cases, the chief health officer of the county where death occurs constructs this letter/statement. She/he may ask for assistance from the chief deputy registrar, who may construct the letter since the registrar is the one who will receive the death certificate for filing. The health officer may review the death certificate to verify the cause of death or she/he may contact the physician directly for verification.

In some areas, if the death was a medical examiner's case, the medical examiner may construct the letter/statement.

If the usual person who signs this type of letter is unavailable, the CDR should contact a quality assurance field rep for guidance.

Vital Statistics Word Search

H	T	N	L	R	G	B	T	U	F	E	R	K	B	I	B	G	S	I	M
J	Q	F	A	R	N	L	T	F	D	C	E	K	N	L	R	U	I	B	O
E	O	K	C	O	I	K	K	I	F	I	C	F	S	W	B	C	L	L	O
O	N	Y	I	J	L	S	T	T	N	B	O	M	S	R	D	E	R	Y	V
K	T	Q	T	O	D	S	K	M	H	R	N	A	E	V	G	H	J	W	V
N	A	J	S	M	N	P	Z	W	M	O	C	G	Z	D	K	Y	G	G	M
N	E	M	I	A	U	C	Y	A	I	P	I	Q	F	J	I	A	B	M	O
P	O	C	T	G	O	V	N	T	I	S	L	Q	U	T	A	C	P	H	W
C	Z	I	A	S	F	T	A	E	T	M	I	R	N	R	A	E	A	Y	C
S	O	K	T	M	R	R	W	R	Y	D	A	T	E	A	Y	F	U	L	L
I	B	M	S	A	E	B	A	N	O	I	T	A	R	T	S	I	G	E	R
G	P	L	P	M	T	R	E	Y	I	J	I	K	A	G	K	R	Y	C	Q
N	E	V	U	L	D	S	Y	B	T	D	O	V	L	E	Q	T	X	J	P
A	Q	N	H	C	I	V	E	T	Q	I	N	G	D	V	I	R	Q	W	J
T	E	F	T	G	E	A	E	T	S	U	R	R	E	N	D	E	R	E	D
U	E	M	I	L	B	U	N	N	T	O	A	O	R	H	G	D	E	I	T
R	X	M	X	U	S	J	Q	C	A	A	C	E	H	K	K	H	S	O	E
E	L	R	E	I	F	I	T	R	E	C	T	J	N	T	U	F	D	D	O
S	D	I	R	E	C	T	O	R	N	A	S	G	N	S	U	D	A	G	O
P	Z	A	A	N	Q	V	K	E	P	N	D	A	B	Z	M	A	R	Z	U

ATTESTATION
FUNERAL
AUTHORITY
INFORMANT
CERTIFIER
MEDICAL
COMPLIANCE
PATERNITY
DIRECTOR
RECONCILIATION
EBRS
REGISTRATION
EDITS
SIGNATURES
EDRS
STATISTICAL
ENUMERATION
SUBREGISTRAR
FOUNDLING
SURRENDERED

For answer key, email: ana_gould@doh.state.fl.us

The County Health Department phone list (with fees) is posted to the Internet at:
http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.htm. The list is updated quarterly & can be downloaded at any time. Be sure to verify with the county if there are additional fees.

Issuance Reminders

Chapter 5 of the CDR Operations Manual (COM) outlines the procedures for issuance of vital record certifications, who is considered authorized, how applications are to be completed, what documentation or ID is required, and when it is required, etc. The following are some reminders regarding proper issuance:

- Valid photo ID must be provided for issuance of all birth, death with cause of death, and fetal death certifications.
- Applicant's ID number must be entered into e-Vitals AFS and included on the application.
- Any documentation presented to obtain a confidential certification must be entered into e-Vitals in the Internal Notes; if copies of the documentation are made they must be maintained along with the hard copy application for one year.
- Applications must be completed in their entirety
- Funeral director applications must be completed in their entirety, signed by the funeral director, including their license number, the name of the person represented, and that person's relationship to the deceased.

Questions on issuance should be directed to Kevin Wright, 904-359-6922 or Evelyn Fugate, 904-359-6900, ext. 1022.



BITS 'N PIECES

CDRs should notice the **revised e-Vitals reports**. Users tell us they are much preferred over the previous version.

Past issues of the Vital News can be found on the department's website at the following address:
http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/Vital_Statistics/VitalNews/vn-index.htm

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JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32231-0042

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Date:

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